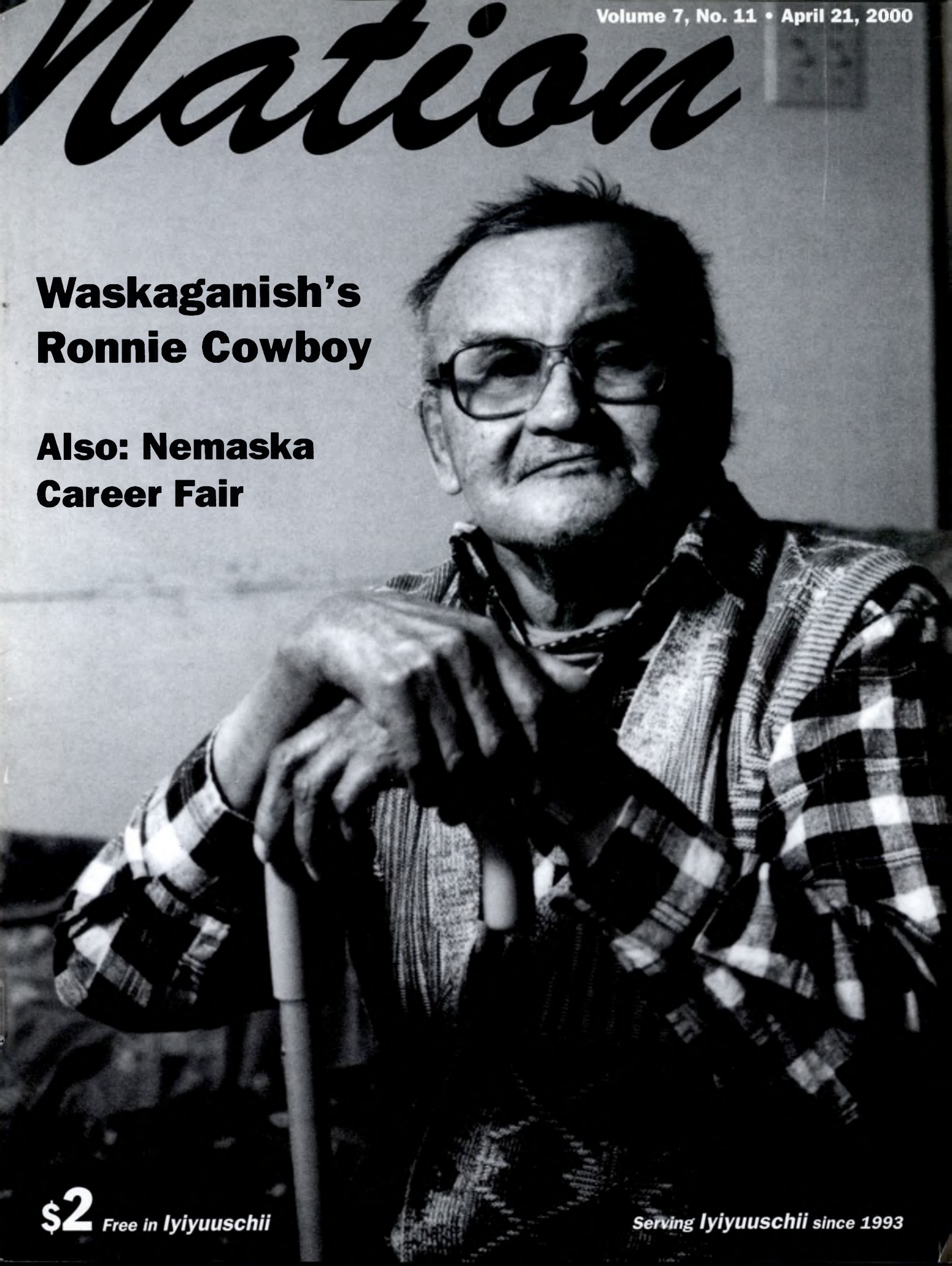
Volume 7, No. 11 • April 21, 2000

Nation

Waskaganish's Ronnie Cowboy

Also: Nemaska Career Fair



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21 ways to scalp an Indian

By Jerry Gambill ("Akwesasne Notes", vol I, No. 7. July1979)

Methods must coincide with the type of problem. The Indian has problems peculiar to "Indians alone" and deals with a very receptive society.

The Indian's problem in solution has much of its roots in a lack of communication. As soon as the Indians become articulate enough as a people, and signs indicate they are fast becoming that way, their aims will become clear and receptive to our wants.

One fact is clear to the Indian. He does not go where he is not wanted. You can't force people to accept you. Nothing is ever gained by anything destructive. At least, if acceptance is what you are seeking.

The Indian's interests are locked within himself, his proud past, his country, and his own destiny as shaped by himself.

Being other than white isn't common cause enough to justify civil disobedience.

The art of denying Indians their human rights has been refined to a science. The following list of commonly used techniques will be helpful in "burglar-proofing" your reserves and "your rights".

GAIN THE INDIANS' CO-OPERATION — It is much easier to steal someone's human rights if you can do it with his OWN co-operation, SO....

1. Make him a non-person. Human rights are for people. Convince Indians their ancestors were savages, that they were pagans, that Indians are drunkards. Make them wards of the government. Make a legal distinction, as in the Indian Act, between Indians and persons.

2. Convince the Indian that he should be patient, that these things take time. Tell him that we are making progress, and that progress takes time.

3. Make him believe that things are being done for his own good. Tell him that you're sure that after he has experienced your laws and actions that he will realize how good they have been. Tell the Indian he has to take a little of the bad in order to enjoy the benefits you are conferring on him.

4. Get some Indian people to do the dirty work. There are always those who will act for you to the disadvantage of their own people. Just give them a little honor and praise. This is generally the function of band councils, chiefs, and advisory councils: They have little legal power, but can handle the tough decisions such as welfare, allocation of housing, etc.

5. Consult the Indian, but do not act on the basis of what you hear. Tell the Indian he has a voice and go through the motions of listening. Then interpret what you have heard to suit your own needs.

6. Insist that the Indian "GOES THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS". Make the channels and the procedures so difficult that he won't bother to do anything.

7. Make the Indian believe that you are working hard for him, putting in much overtime and at a great sacrifice, and imply that he should be appreciative. This is the ultimate in skills in stealing human rights: When you obtain the thanks of your victim.

8. Allow a few individuals to "MAKE THE GRADE" and then point to them as examples. Say that the "Hardworkers" and the "good" Indians have made it, and that therefore it is a person's own fault if he doesn't succeed.

9. Appeal to the Indian's sense of fairness, and tell him that, even though things are pretty bad, it is not right for him to make strong protests. Keep the argument going on his form of protest and avoid talking about the real issue. Refuse to deal with him while he is protesting.

10. Encourage the Indian to take his case to court. This is very expensive, takes lots of time and energy, and is very safe because the laws are stacked against him. The court's ruling will defeat the Indian's cause, but makes him think he has obtained justice.

11. Make the Indian believe that things could be worse, and that, instead of complaining about the loss of human rights, to be grateful for the human rights we do have. In fact, convince him that to attempt to regain a right he has lost is likely to jeopardize the rights that he still has.

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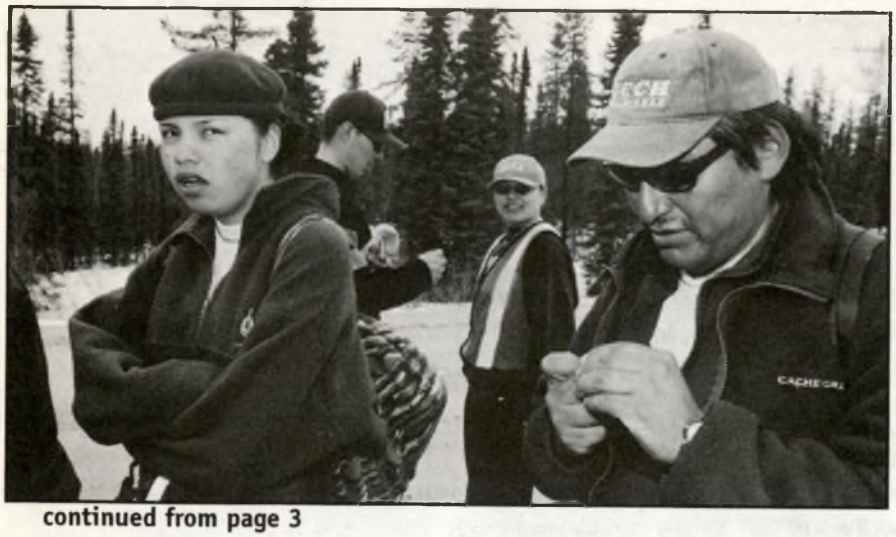
ON THE COVER

Ronny Cowboy

Photographer: Neil Diamond
Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

We erroneously identified last issue's cover as the Dixon family. it was actually Tony Neepash & family of Mistissini. We apologize for any confusion.

21 ways...



continued from page 3

12. Set yourself up as the protector of the Indian's human rights, and then you can choose to act on only those violations you wish to act upon. By getting successful action on a few minor violations of human rights, you can point to these as examples of your devotion to his cause. The burglar who is also the doorman is the perfect combination.

13. Pretend that the reason for the loss of human rights is for some other reason than that the person is an Indian. Tell him some of your best friends are Indians, and that his loss of rights is because of his housekeeping, his drinking, his clothing.

14. Make the situation more complicated than is necessary. Tell the Indian a survey is needed to find out just how many other Indians are being discriminated against. Hire a group of professors to make a year-long research project.

15. Insist on unanimity. Let the Indian know that when all the Indians in Canada can make up their minds about just what they want as a group, then you will act. Play one group's special situation against another group's wishes.

16. Select very limited alternatives, neither of which has much merit, and tell the Indian that he indeed has a choice. Ask, for instance, if he could or would rather have council elections in June or December, instead of asking if he wants them at all.

17. Convince the Indian that the leaders who are the most beneficial and powerful are dangerous and not to be trusted. Or simply lock them up on some charge. Or refuse to listen to the real leaders and spend much time with the weak ones. Attempt to get the best leaders into high-paying jobs where they have to keep quiet to keep their paycheck coming in.

18. Speak of the common good. Tell the Indian that you can't consider yourselves when there is the whole nation to think of. Tell him that he can't think only of himself. For instance, in regard to hunting rights, tell him we have to think of all the hunters.

19. Remove rights so gradually that people don't realize what has happened until it is too late. Again, in regard to hunting rights, first restrict the area where hunting is permitted, then cut the season, then cut the limits down gradually, insist on licensing, and then Indians will be on the same grounds as white sportsmen.

20. Rely on reason and logic (your reason and logic) instead of rightness and morality. Give thousands of reasons for things, but do not get trapped into arguments about what is right.

21. Hold a conference on HUMAN RIGHTS, have everyone blow off steam and tension, and go home feeling that things are well in hand.

The Nation **is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications.**

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thanks to:
Air Creebec

Printedby Quebecor.
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Publication Mail #0584584
ISSN #1206-2642

***THE NATION* IS A MEMBER OF:**
The James Bay Cree Communications Society
Circle of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers
Canadian Magazine Publishers Association
Quebec Community Newspaper Association
Canadian Community Newspaper Association
Les Hebdos Sélect du Québec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
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Harry Whiskeychan at the Career Fair in Nemaska.

SILENCE ON SPOUSAL ABUSE A BIG PROBLEM

Silence might be golden, but not when it comes to domestic violence.

Too often, Cree families and community members are reluctant to talk about spousal abuse and to support battered women, because they find the situation embarrassing.

That's the consensus of Cree health workers and police, who say attitudes to spousal abuse are slowly getting better, but a lot more needs to be done.

Just as bad as the silence, they said, is a severe lack of resources to help battered women or teach violent men to stop.

The nearest women's shelters are in Val d'Or, Amos and Chibougamau, where many Cree women don't feel comfortable because of the language barrier.

As for the men, the only counseling available is at a non-Native treatment centre in Montreal. This centre sometimes has a hard time speaking to Native and Inuit men because of cultural differences.

It adds up to a grim picture for battered women, health workers and police trying to cope with the abuse.

They say battered women are often discouraged from leaving the man or pressing charges. The women are often told that once two people are married, they should never separate, even if her husband is hurting her.

In one community, a father recently went on the radio to tell his daughter to go back to her husband, even though the husband had been beating her.

The daughter had moved into her parents' house, but the father wanted her to go back. He said marriage is for life.

Last month, a Cree woman was so badly beaten by her husband she was taken to a hospital, but she didn't want to press charges. It wasn't the first time police had responded to a domestic-violence call at the couple's home.

"There is silence around violence – silence and fear of having all these people know," said Doris A. Bobbish, a community worker in Chisasibi for the Cree Health Board.

"Parents are afraid to get involved (because of) the belief we have in our communities that once you are married, you should not separate. That's a very strong influence which they (battered women) have to face.

"It's very scary for women to be in that relationship. They feel they have no other choice," she said.

Bobbish said more health personnel are needed to cope with the heavy caseload. She also noted that Chisasibi used to have a women's shelter, but the funding was cut because not enough women were going there.

"It was quite difficult for a woman to go there," she said. The woman's family and her husband's would encourage her to go back home. There were also safety concerns. The abusive man would often go to the shelter looking for the woman.

Samuel House, chief of police in Chisasibi, said many women are too embarrassed to use the resources that are available - social services, women's shelters, talking to Elders.

by Alex Roslin

SEE "SPOUSAL," on p. 9

Class actions irk Feds

Are class-action lawsuits the best way for survivors of residential schools to get justice?

That question is going to be on many lips in coming months as the first class-action cases start winding their way through the courts.

The federal government and lawyers for Native people are already sparring about whether class actions will help or hurt residential-school survivors.

At stake are billions of dollars in compensation payments.

The supporters of class actions say they are faster and cheaper than filing hundreds or thousands of individual lawsuits.

They predict that class actions will start blossoming across the country after a recent decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, known as the Jericho case.

The B.C. court decided to authorize a class action in the case of a school where deaf children were sexually and physically abused.

After the Jericho decision, three new class actions were quickly filed in B.C. covering all 16 residential schools in the province.

That has federal officials alarmed.

James Ward, a lawyer for the federal Justice Department in Vancouver, said class actions aren't the right way to go for residential-school survivors.

"I think they're going to have a harder case proving we're liable," he said. "It just seems a bit strange to be taking the harder route on this."

Ward said the big question in the coming court battles will be whether the school was directly responsible for abuse perpetrated by its employees, or merely indirectly responsible. In other words, how much did school officials know about the abuse?

The answer to that question could make a huge difference in how class actions are decided and how much compensation is awarded.

Ward said the problem is courts will likely require proof of direct responsibility in class-action cases. This is harder to

SEE "CLASS," on p. 9

LETTERS

Dear "The Nation":

Please find enclosed my cheque in the amount of $45.00 to renew my subscription to the Nation.

I thoroughly enjoy reading the latest news on the Crees of James Bay, especially the articles on the Elders and their respective stories.

I look forward to my future issues.

Margaret Pachanos Lemaire

Subject: Personal Comments
Ref: Article on use of Cree language at the Troilus Mine

Sir/Madam

I read your article in last week's issue of The Nation concerning the use of Cree at the Troilus Mine. I really must say that I am disappointed in your coverage, which I find to be one-sided.

The fact that Troilus employs many Crees does not justify any behaviour that would curtail or suppress the use of our language. However, is this really the case? Before throwing stones, it would seem apparent that an objective article should have been written, taking into account all the facts.

I worked at Troilus for four years as the Cree Employment Coordinator. I remember several times when radios were brought to me so I could listen to the conversations of employees in the pit (both native and non-native). I can tell you that most of the Cree spoken was not necessary. Nobody is trying to suppress Cree, people are just being asked to limit their conversations. Have you ever seen the machines in the pit? How about the dynamite? Everyone has a role to play in ensuring that a workplace is safe. That was the essence of the request. Furthermore, I can tell you, as will anyone with a grain of honesty, that many of the comments in Cree are downright racist towards non-natives. If a non-native would utter these comments, he would have surely been dismissed. Did you even bother to find that about this?

Whether or not you want to admit it, the Troilus mine (a non-native company) employs more Crees than the combined total of Crees working for Cree Construction and Air Creebec. And these are Cree-owned companies! True, not everything is perfect at Troilus. However, after having worked and dealt with many native and non-native companies in several sectors, including Hydro-Québec, I can tell you that what has been built at Troilus is by far the best model I have ever seen. It is not perfect, but it is a very big step in the right direction towards assuming our roles as the deciders of players in the future of our land.

It seems that when something negative can be said about a non-native company, you are more than happy to give it wide coverage. In the five years that Troilus has been around, you only once wrote an article about it. Even at that, the article was about the "negotiators" and not the efforts being put forward by the workers at the mine. What about an article on Cree construction and other entities on their failure to integrate, train and promote members of the Cree communities? Maybe if you took your lips off of the collective "derrière" of our Cree leadership long enough, you might see this. As a nation, we need to question ourselves constantly. The Nation has not assumed its role in this. It only questions outside governments and companies.

Maybe if you stopped citing statistics on unemployment and population growth in our communities and spent more time trying to

Cont'd on page 23

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TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING THE SCHOOLS OF THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

After only a few meetings, the negotiations to renew the collective agreement between the Association and the school board are moving forward rapidly.

We have shown the school board that **providing high-quality educational services to the Cree communities** is our number-one concern.

The school board recognizes the importance of our demands, such as those related to students with learning problems and it also agrees that paying a premium would help attract qualified staff and encourage them to remain in our schools.

We want you to know that with this goal of ensuring the quality of educational services, we will do everything necessary to make the government provide the services that are adapted to your children's needs. We believe that what is good for the South is good for the North.

Marcel Duplessis
President

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The preparation of the lodge for the walkers.

CREES LAUNCH COUNTER-STRIKE IN LAWSUIT

Crees launched a legal counter-strike in the Mario Lord forestry lawsuit, filing an appeal of the controversial decision to remove Justice Jean-Jacques Croteau from the case.

Meanwhile, due to a bureaucratic mix-up by the Quebec government, logging machines fell silent all across Quebec on April Fool's Day.

Forestry companies weren't laughing as an unknown number of the province's 10,500 lumberjacks and other forest workers had to stop cutting trees.

The reason: all the companies' forest permits expired on April 1 and the government is late in approving new permits.

Quebec scrambled to pass emergency legislation to extend the permits, but didn't get its law passed until April 6. It could take two more weeks before the paperwork gets done to renew the permits.

"We aren't moving. We are all dead," complained Michel Deshaies, forestry-operations director at Barrette-Chapais Ltd. He said 120 of his workers were off work.

On April 7, the day after the emergency bill was passed, Crees filed an appeal of the decision to remove judge Croteau from the forestry case. Croteau was removed after he made a ruling Dec. 20 that favoured the Crees.

Croteau said the Quebec government had "openly and continually violated" Cree rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The judge gave Quebec six months to start changing its forestry and environmental laws to respect Cree rights.

After Croteau's removal on March 8, Cree chiefs announced they have no more faith in the justice system and threatened to tear up the James Bay Agreement. They also said they would consider dropping out of the court case.

Cree chiefs, Elders, trappers and community members held a series of meetings across Iyiyuuschii to figure out what to do next. In the end, they decided to appeal Croteau's removal.

"People were concerned about the decision (to remove Croteau), especially the Elders. They are in a state of great incomprehension," said Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees.

"They think a judge is in a position of great honour. To have him unceremoniously removed is a great dishonour."

Namagoose said no decisions were made on the other issue – withdrawing from the James Bay Agreement.

Backing for the Cree appeal came from affidavits of support from eight First Nations and environmental groups, including the Assembly of First Nations, Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Kahnawake, Kanehsatake and Akwesasne.

AFN National Chief Phil Fontaine called Croteau's removal "virtually unprecedented," an "abuse of power" and "disturbing" to all Aboriginal peoples.

The move "compromises the right of Aboriginal peoples to a full, fair and impartial hearing before an independent and impartial judiciary," he wrote.

Greenpeace said it "questions very seriously the wisdom" of Croteau's removal.

by Alex Roslin

Walkers raise $95,000

About $95,000 was raised to fight a rare Cree brain disease in the Winter Journey fundraising campaign, which saw 42 people walk from as far as Waswanipi and Mistissini to Nemaska.

Ottawa refuses to fund research into Cree Leukoencephalitis (or Awaash Aahkusuwin Aakaa Chii Nitikuhtaach in Cree), which has claimed 21 children's lives. Little is known about the disease, except that almost all its victims are Crees of Quebec. In children with the sickness, parts of the brain are missing.

The walkers from Waswanipi left on March 20, headed to Ouje-Bougoumou and met walkers from Mistissini before heading to Nemaska. They arrived April 8. The two groups were led by Abraham Ottereyes and James A. Gunner. (See page 17. Ed.)

Crees address forestry rally in Washington

The Cree international campaign on forestry heated up last week in Washington.

Cree officials addressed a rally of about 100 people against Canada's forestry practices outside the White House last week.

Afterwards, they joined a British Columbia First Nations alliance and environmental groups from the U.S. and Canada at a press conference to denounce Canada's weak environmental rules and forestry policies.

The Crees and B.C. people also met with U.S. congressional staff and handed in submissions to U.S. trade officials, who are about to start renegotiating the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement.

"It's obvious that the fate of the Crees is linked to the fate of the trees," said Romeo Saganash, director of Quebec relations for the Grand Council of the Crees.

"If there are no trees, there are no Crees. Our cultural survival is at stake here."

"We're down here in the U.S. to make sure we get some form of protection and to seek support from American politicians," said Chief Arthur Manuel, of the B.C. Interior Alliance, which represents five First Nations that cover a quarter of the province.

The First Nations and environmentalists said Canada's limp environmental rules and coziness with the forestry industry are not only damaging wildlife and Native culture, but also amount to an unfair subsidy for Cana-

SEE "NEWS BRIEFS," on page 9

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Spousal...

continued from page 5

"They say if they go there, everything is going to be out in the open," he said.

"It's more open now than in the past. It's just that I think there are a lot of people who are in denial – who don't want to talk about their problems," said House.

Jane Blacksmith, public-health officer at the Mistissini First Nation, agreed that things have improved in the past 10 years.

"At one point, men and the woman's family thought if a woman got beat up she deserved it, so let's not interfere. That's changing, slowly," she said. "We are learning that nobody should have to go through that for the sake of someone else."

But family violence is still quite hidden as a problem, she said. "We have a lot of people asking for help, but these are people who don't want a file opened on them. Mostly, they still love this person who's abusing them. They want to get help without having to go to court. They want someone who's there to listen."

Blacksmith said the communities need more resources on the issue, and more research is needed on family violence in Iyiyuuschii. The Cree Health Board's mental-health department also has to get involved in the issue at a regional level, she said: "They're the ones who should be doing something on family violence."

Women's associations should also get involved in fighting domestic violence, she said: "They would be in the best position to speak on behalf of women and educate the community."

Dr. Robert Harris, who works at the Chisasibi Hospital, has seen a long list of injuries due to domestic violence - stabbings, broken thumbs, black eyes, bruises, broken arms. "Some guys try to hit in places where it's not so visible, like the bum or stomach," he added.

Most battered women don't lay charges and many of the ones who do, drop them, he said. The reason – abusive men tend to be very apologetic and kind after a violent episode. This is sometimes called the "honeymoon phase."

But unless the abuser realizes he has a problem and tries to change, he'll probably go back to his old ways.

Harris agreed that more resources are needed, including help for violent men: "If we don't do much for the women, we do even less for the men." He also said a survey would also be useful to find out how bad the problem really is.

News briefs...

continued from page 7

dian timber exports to the U.S.

They've made an alliance with U.S. industry to put Canada's environmental record on trial during coming negotiations on the softwood lumber agreement.

"We're subsidizing the British Columbia forestry industry based on the fact that they don't have to deal with our Aboriginal title," said Manuel. "It allows Canadian timber to be sold dirt cheap in the U.S."

Passing the trash

A surprisingly large number of teachers are sexually abusing students, leaving a trail of devastated young victims, according to an extensive Ontario inquiry. Many, if not most, of the cases are never reported

School authorities often don't handle complaints seriously enough, or let sex offenders quietly move on to another unknowing school, said the 569-page report. The education community even has a slang term — "passing the trash" — for allowing pedophiles to slip away from one school and "hunt again at another."

The inquiry was prompted by the case of Sault Ste. Marie teacher convicted of sex-related offences against 13 girls from 1972 to 1993. The board's response was "completely inadequate and, indeed, harmful," the inquiry found. Officials discouraged the victims, blaming them for the incidents and threatening lawsuits or criminal prosecution.

Class...

continued from page 5

establish, he said.

In the Jericho ruling, the court said the deaf kids have to prove the school knew the abuse was going on and knew the students were at risk, according to Ward. In other words, they have to prove the school was directly responsible for the abuse.

However, in residential-school cases so far, courts have said that schools were only indirectly or "vicariously" responsible for the actions of employees, according to Ward.

"That's the easy way for plaintiffs to prove liability," he said.

Whether Ward is right or not will be clearer when the first residential-school class action comes before the courts for authorization later this year.

Russell Raikes is involved in that case, and he thinks Ward is wrong. "You're responsible for the actions of an employee," said Raikes, a London, Ontario lawyer who represents 1,000 former students of the Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford, Ont. Some of the students are Crees from Quebec and Ontario.

Raikes said proving direct responsibility is not necessarily harder than indirect responsibility. In the Mohawk Institute case, he said the students are alleging that the school was both directly and indirectly responsible for the abuse.

"With all due respect to counsel on the other side, it would be very surprising to me to hear you can't have vicarious liability in a class action," he said.

"Cowboy's an Indian"

Matthew Bhgoodeo (Ash) was shepherd to a herd of cows, in the days when the Hudson's Bay Company kept horses, chickens and cows. One day, Matthew was leading the cows to their feeding area west of Waskaganish. In the evening, after they had finished grazing, Matthew Bhgoodeo led the herd home. They reached the river Gamshjoogwayashid when the tide was at its highest and difficult to cross on foot. He drove the cows across the river. As the last animal was about to swim across, Matthew jumped astride its back, crossed and continued on. When he reached the outskirts of the settlement, a group of French men asked how he had managed to cross the river at high tide. He told them his story and thus earned the surname Cowboy.

In the winter of 1921, a son was born to the first Waskaganish Cowboy and a girl from Eastmain, Hannah Gilpin, at Gabbesh Shee, a portage on the Rupert River. The boy was christened Ronnie.

As a young boy Ronnie taught himself to read and write in Cree. In his thirties, when he felt confident that he could truly communicate through it, he started a correspondence with friends in Nemaska and Ontario and read scripture in church. Later, Ronnie worked for years as one of the first native teachers of written Cree.

Cowboy's vocabulary is prodigious. Out of his mouth flow words now used and understood by only a few. He teasingly challenges his listeners if they understand the ancient words that pepper his conversation. More often than not they don't.

Ronnie also faithfully made near daily entries in a journal for forty years. A habit he picked up from his mother. Sadly, he had to abandon his journals when his eyesight started failing him. Asked for a peek into his writings Ronnie is reluctant and seems amused that someone would even show an interest. "I never let anybody see them." he declines. And in the event of his death? He says, stoically and matter-of-factly, "They will be burned."

cont'd on page 11

cont'd from page 10

Ronnie, for a Cree Elder, is well travelled and chuckles when he remembers talking, trading stories and comparing notes with an Algonquin elder over dinner in a revolving restaurant high above Montreal. Ronnie remembers what he heard a Nemaska elder say of the coming of men from Gamshjigimeeht. And how they brought matches and gunpowder. "So they gave up using stone (Shgoodeo hkanapsque)." says Ronnie. He goes on and describes the ones that can start a flame(Shgoodeo sini). "The one completely white, the one that's called "shoogaoapsqueh sini" doesn't have fire. It is not alive. The rusty one has fire . It has Sewatsyoon (compassion)."

Ronnie's lived in interesting times. On his first trip through Moosonee on his way to Lasarre. He went to a shop for cigarettes and other items for the south-bound train. Ronnie was stopped by a local who told him that the store had just been robbed. On the train to Cochrane he noticed an unattended bag on the trip , the stranger whose bag it was nowhere. The stranger continued on to Montreal where he was arrested for bank robbery.

Ronnie, when he still played, was a warrior in Cree checkers. Dzeegehdzan is an outdoor sport usually played before a rapt riverside crowd of men. It is played fast and furious and often enough that the sling sized rock pieces carve smooth cups into the squares of the community checker board. He was the champion at the James Bay checkers tournament for several years.

I dropped in unannounced one November evening at Ronnie's home and found him lost in a hymn book, humming. He was gracious enough not to challenge me to his game of checkers. He put away his book, served tea and sat in his dining room to reminisce and answer questions about everything I asked.

Jeebash

That old man who used to hunt on the Broadback told me this story. I had asked him why it was called Jeebash. It's a lake on a mountain. Near Wasogimeeht. A teepee had been found there during a famine. There had been no rabbit and partridge, everything. The people hadn't been heard from or seen since the summer. This man Reuben went there to Jeebesh. He came upon the lake (Ash htuhtayao) and saw the teepee covered in snow. He walked up to it and started cutting the poles down all around. He lifted a pole and the teepee went down. He cut a tree (Psgoodemskheegun) down cut off its lower branches. and stood it in front of the door. After he finished he went down to the shore, walked along it and chopped another tree down. He sat on the tree and smoked. Not long after several caribou walked out on the lake near where the teepee now lay. He watched them. They sat down on the ice. He walked back to the camp and approached them from where they came, following their tracks. He killed all of them using a flintlock. It was his reward for finding them he said.

First airplane landing in Waskaganish

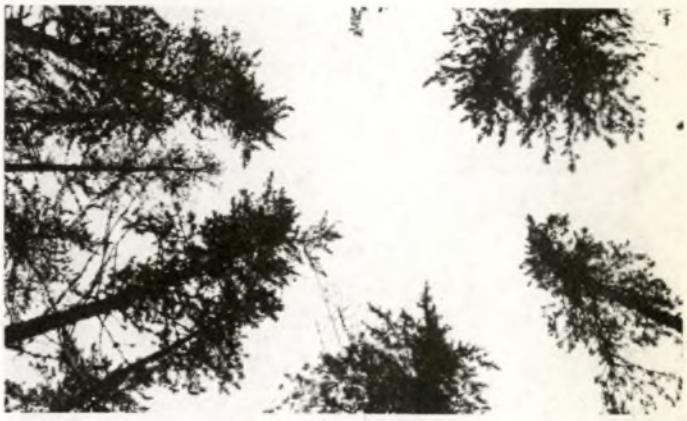
There were no planes here when the priest George Morrow was here. And the French manager, I forget his name. They had made a sliding hill where the priest lives now. Everybody was happy. Where the restaurant is was also a sliding area. There was also one where the church stands today. The one at the priest's hill was the dangerous one. One night the company workers were sliding. The priest liked sliding. The older people would go sliding too. We couldn't go there and we called it the dangerous one. I was already in bed when people said the priest had his leg broken while sliding. There were three of them on the sled. He was sitting at the front of the sled. They hit a stump that was covered by the snow. They flipped over and the other two fell on top of him and dislocated his hip.

They took him by dog sled to Moosonee and Cochrane because there were any planes yet. But there was no hospital in Moosonee so he was taken to Cochrane. The train picked him up and took him somewhere past Toronto. His leg died. It was amputated and he was made another one.

Not that winter but the following winter he came back. The plane arrived but it didn't land here, it landed at Oobwomeshjuksh. There was no phone here or radio and the pilot didn't have a map. They couldn't find Waskaganish. He used the dogs and arrived here on the new year. The other priests stay there with the plane and built a fire. And flew in the next day. They landed on the shore here. The people were amazed because it landed in the snow. That was the first the plane came. It somewhere in 1924 I believe.

ᓄᐊᑎᖅᓯ

ᓄᖅ ᑎᕐᕋᒧᐊᓐ ᑕᒧ ᑎᕐᕋᒧᐊᑦ
ᑕᒥᑦ ᖃᓄᑦ ᑕᒧ ᑕᓴᒥᖅᑕᑦ



ᓂᐱ ᑎᕐᕋᒧᐊᓐ ᒥᓐ, ᒥᐣ ᑕᓐ ᑲ ᐃᔨᑦ ᕿᖅᑎᒪᓐ. ᑕᕿ ᓂ ᐅᖅᓂ ᑕᐱᖅᑕᓐ ᐅ ᑕᑲ ᐃᔨᓴᒪᐅᖅᐃᐊᔨᓐ. ᑕᐊᑕ ᐅᑕ ᐅᖅᓂ ᑐᓂᓯᓂᒧ ᐃᓴᓂᑦ ᐅᑎᖅ ᑕᐱᐸᒪᔨᑐᖅᓯᑦ ᐅᑎᓐᓄᐊᐃ ᐅᑕ ᓂᑎᑐᓂᔪᑕ". ᓂᒧᐃᐃ ᔪᐅᓇᓐ ᕿᐅᓂᐊᐃᓐ ᐃᓐᓴᓇᓐᓂᒃ ᐃᓴᑦ ᑕᓂᒥᖅ. ᐃᓴᓐᓴᐊᓐᓂᒃ. ᑕᐊᓐ ᓂᐅᑦ ᑕᐊᓐᓂᒃᑐᐊᓐᓂᒃ ᑕᐊᓐᓂᒃ ᑕᑎᓐᓂᒃ ᑕᐊᓐᓂᒃ ᑕᐊᓐᓂᒃ ᑕᐊ

Waapitihkw

Told by John Petagumskum Sr.
Interviewed by Thomas Shem

ᒋᒋᕇ, ᐊᑯᑕ ᑭᐧᐃ ᐃᓴᐱᓂ ᓂᐱᐢᑕᑦ ᐊᓂᔭ ᑫ ᑭᓂᑲᔨᑦ. ᑫᑲᓂ ᒋᐧ ᓂᐱᐢᑕᑫ. ᐊᔨᐧ ᒪᑦ ᐅᔨᕇ ᐱᔨᑭ ᐅᑎᑎᐢᐅᐊᑦ ᐅᔭ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓂᕇ. ᒪᐢᑦ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓴ ᓂᑎᓂᓂᐢᑲᑕᓴ ᐅ ᕮᐅᓴᑎᑯᐃᐃ ᓂᑎᒋᐢᑦ. ᐊᓴ ᐊᑯᐧ ᒪᐢᑦ ᐱᔨᑭ ᐃᓴᐢᑎᑯᐢᑦ. ᐱᐱᑭᑭᓴ, ᐊᔨᑯᓴᑦ ᐅᔭ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓴ. ᐱᔨᑭ ᐃᐢᑕᑦ ᓴᑕ ᐊᑯᐧᑕᔨᐢᑦ ᐊ ᐊᓴᑕᔨᐢᑦ. ᓂᔭᑎᑲᒪᐢᐊᓴᑦ ᑭᔭ. ᐊᑯᑦ ᑭ ᐃᐢᑕᔨᑲᓂᐢᐃ ᓄᑕᐢᑲᑦ, ᓄᑕᐢᑭᑲᑦ ᑭ ᐃᓂᓂᐢᑲᑕᓴ ᑭᓴᐃᔨᓴ ᐊᓴᑭᑦ. ᑕᕇ ᓂ ᐅᐢᑭ ᐊᐱᒪᐧ ᓂ. ᐅᐢᑕᐃᐢ ᒪᑦ. ᑭ ᐅᓂᐢᐊᑭᑲᒪᐢ ᐊᓂᔭᐢᑦ ᐊᐱᑎᐢᐢᑦ ᑲ ᐅᐢᑕᐃᐢ. ᐃ ᑭᔭ ᓄᑕᐢᑭᑲᑦ ᑭ ᐃᐢᑕᑲᑲᓂᐢᐃ ᓄᑕᐢᑭᑲᑦ ᐅᐢᑕᐃᐢ. ᑲ ᑎᑕᐢᒪᑦ ᑭᕇ, ᒪᑲᑦ ᑲ ᐅᔭᓂᔨᓂᐢᐅᑦ. ᑲ ᑎᔨᑎᓴᐢᐅᑦ ᐊᐱᑎᐢᐢᑦ ᑲ ᐃᑕᔨᑦ ᑲ ᐃᐢᑕᑲᑲᓂᐢᐃ ᐅᔭ ᐅᑕᐢᑎᑎᐢᐢᑦ. ᐊᔨᐧ ᕮᐢᑦ ᑲ ᐅᔭᓂᔨᓂᐢᐅᑦ. ᒪᐢᑦ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓴ ᐅᔭᓂᔨᓂᐢᐅᑦ ᐊᐱᒪᔨᐢᐢᑦ. ᑭᐧᐃ ᐅᔭ ᑲ ᑕᑎᓂᐢ, ᕮᐢᑕᐧᐃ ᐅᑕ ᑭᓴᐃᔨᓴ ᑲ ᐃᑕᔨᑦ ᑲ ᑕᑎᓂᐢ ᐊᓂᔭᐢᑦ ᐅᔭ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓴ ᐅᑕᐢᑎᑎᐢᐢᑦ. ᐅᑕ ᑭᐧᐃ ᐃᐢᑕᑲᑲᓂᐢᐃ ᐊᓂᔭᐢᑦ ᐅᔭ ᑭᐱᑕᑭᓴ ᐅᑕᐢᑎᑎᐢᐢᑦ. ᐅᔭᓂᔨᓂᐢᐅᑦ ᐊᐱᒪᔨᐢᐢᑦ.

ᑲ ᐃᔨᐢᒪᐧ ᑭᕇ. ᑕᐱᑲ ᒋᐧᑎᑐᐧ ᐅᑭ ᐃᔨᔭᐧ. ᑲᑭᔭ ᑲ ᐃᑕᐧ, ᑲᑭᔭ ᐊᑐᐧ ᓂᐧᐊᔨᐢᑎᐧ ᐊᑯᓵ ᑲ ᐊᑲ ᑫ ᐃᓵᒪᑦ ᐅᑕ ᐊᓵᐢᐅᐢᑲᐢᐃᓴᐢᐅᓂᐧᐃᔭᐢᑦ. ᐊᐧ ᐊᐃᐊᐧᑦ ᒋᐱᐧᑲᑲᓂᐢᐃᓴᐢᐅᓂᐧᐃᔭᐢᑦ. ᑲᔭᑭᓴᑦ ᐊᔨᐧᑎᐧᐃᔭᐢᑦ. ᐅᑕ ᑭᐧᐃ ᐃᐢᑕᑲᑲᓂᐢᐃ ᐊᓂᔭᐢᑦ ᐊᐱᑎᐢᐢᑦ ᐊᐱᑎᐢᐢᑦ ᐊᐱᑎᐢ

The Cree School Board wishes to inform the Cree communities of the deadline for submission of applications for financial assistance for the following programs:

Off-reserve elementary, secondary and private secondary education for Cree beneficiary students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) reside on-reserve.

Deadline: April 30th, 2000

Off-reserve inter-city leagues of athletic and sports programs for Cree beneficiary students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) reside on-reserve.

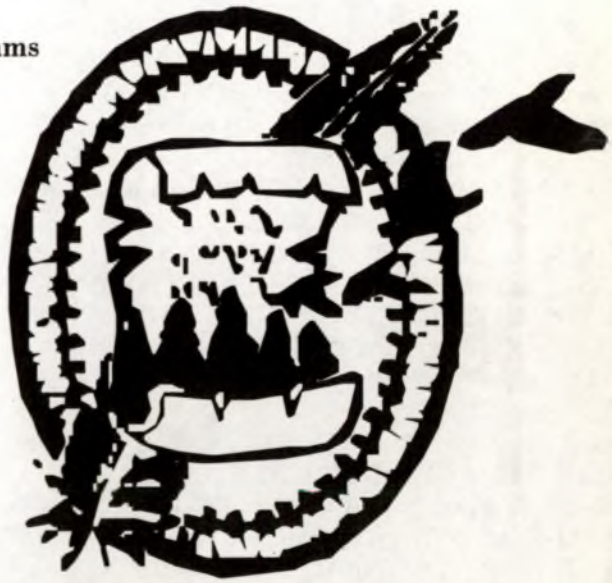
Deadline: April 30th, 2000

Applications to be sent to:

Regional Student Services
Cree School Board
P.O. Box 309
Chisasibi, Quebec
J0M 1E0

Inter-community elite athletic and sports programs for Cree beneficiary students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) reside on-reserve.

Deadline: April 30th, 2000
Letter of intention and application to be sent to the School in the community where the team will be based.



For more information:

Please see the Student Affairs Technician(s) in the schools.

Nemaska Career Fair

The call came in from Martine, "So are you coming for the Career Fair in Nemaska?" she asked. I said I'd get back to her. After some thought, Neil and I decided to go. We packed up and gathered our career fair supplies. Business Cards... Check... Portfolio... Check... Posters... Check... Calendars... Check... Phone Books... Check... Film... Check... Reservations... Check. We'd been invited to other career fairs before but this was our first one that we felt we were ready for. We missed the travel day to go to Nemaska due to a mix up, but all was under control. We left for Chibougoumau the next day on April 4th. At the airport, we were met by our driver Raymond. After a brief stop in town, we hit the Route du Nord by 10am. All was under control. The road wasn't washed out so we would make it in good time.

We passed some camps along the way and my mind wandered to thoughts about the upcoming goose break. Suddenly we saw some people on the road wearing red vests, our driver slowed down. We recognized James Gunner along with seven of his youth walkers. We asked our driver to stop. We snapped some photos talked a bit (please see page 17. Ed.) and shared some cigs, oranges and chips with them and continued on to our destination. 1pm we hit the turnoff to Nemaska, we reached town and dropped our bags off. We bade farewell to our driver Raymond and wished him a good journey back to Chibougoumau.

We were welcomed by Martine Blanc and Nellie Coonishish, organizers for the Fair. By 1:50pm we had our booth set up. We were ready for the throngs of nemaska-ites who wanted to become writers, photographers and such. The Gym of Ecole Luke Mettaweskum School was packed with future career possibilities for the youth. Towards the end, there were two computers drawn from the "passports" the students filled out with information from the fair. The winner from the Elementary side was Pedaban Decoursay and from the Secondary side, the lucky student was Nigel Orr. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and thank the organizing committee for the invitation.

Participants

They had Charlie Small from Canadore College, Robert Baribeau from Troilus. Nutritionist Claudia Lacoste from the Cree Health Board and from the local clinic was the Head Nurse Diane Poulin and Nurse Margaret Diamond. Cree Construction was represented by Isaac Meskino, Lee Ann Neeposh and Edna Neeposh represented Cree Regional Authority. From the Cree School Board, there were Lorraine Beaton and Jeane Tremblath. Eric Cheezo, Kenny Tanoush, John Tent and Abel Wapachee represented the Local Cree Trappers Association. George Swallow and Samuel Mettaweskum represented the Fire Protection Service of Nemaska First Nation. Jean-Benoit Clément represented the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Vincent Sioui from Hydro Québec. Ella Swallow, the Arts and Crafts Coordinator for Nemaska First Nation. Lawrence Jimiken and Brenda Jane Wapachee represented the Nemaska First Nation. The Nemaska Police Service was represented by Kelly Merchand and Clarence Jolly. From the Nemaska Wellness Centre, Lindsey Brown and Kathleen Neeposh were there. Sherry Ann L. Wapachee, Elizabeth Wapachee and Charlotte Meskino represented the She She Guin Kannowesheukimik (Daycare). Caroline Guay represented the Sûreté du Québec. There was also Harry Whiskeychan, a Handicraft Artist and Timmy Whiskeychan, an Artist Painter. From The Nation/Beesum Communications, Neil and I had the honour.

The organizing committee included Nellie Coonishish, Martine Blanc, Metha Boss and Lillian Diamond. Thomas Jolly provided support for the fair. Telebec was a sponsor for the event.

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CAREERS

Everyone at some point in thier childhood gets asked the age old question of...

What do you want to be when you grow up?

We took the opportunity at the Nemaska Career Fair to ask some kids young and old to answer the question.

Stephanie Jolly,
Basketball player for the WNBA

Patricia Wapachee,
I want to become a scientist

Katrina Orr, Veterinarian
Why? Because I feel sorry for all the strays.

Diane Tanoush, Teacher,
Basketball Coach

Lawrence Brien,
Airplane Pilot

Lawrence Jimikan,
Retired!

Ethan Wapachee,
Helicopter Pilot
Why? I want to fly.

Shirley Cheezo, I want to be a doctor.

Mani Decoursay,
A Doctor, Surgeon

Sammy Matches,
Mechanic

Pedaban Decoursay,
Policeman
Why? Mukeeya!

Nicholas Wapachee,
Police

Judith Decoursay,
Principal

Amelia Moar,
Nurse

Winter Journey

Ernest Webb
photos by Neil Diamond

We met up with James Gunner and seven of his walkers on the Route due Nord heading towards Nemaska. It was April 4th and it was a nice warm day. We talked with James and he said that it was hard to walk without snow and that was why they were "walking on sand (the road), It's hard but I don't want to quit." He predicted that their last day of walking would be on the 8th. The walk's purpose was to raise money for research into the rare brain disease that took 21 young lives so far. (See page 7. Ed.) James said that their last day would be on the anniversary of one of the children's passing. In Nemaska we saw the lodge being prepared that would be used to welcome the walkers to Nemaska.

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NORTHERN QUEBEC TEACHING ASSOCIATION
ᒪᒍᐢ ᐊᑎᒪᐱᓪᓚᑦ ᐅᓪᓗᐃᑦ ᑭᓄᑎᒪᒋᔭᐅᑦ

À TOUS LES PARENTS D'ELÈVES FRÉQUENTANT LES ÉCOLES DE LA COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

Déja après quelques seances de travail, la negociation pour le renouvellement de la convention collective entre l'Association et la commission scolaire avance rapidement.

Nous avons exposé à la commission scolaire nos principales preoccupations qui visent essentiellement a **maintenir des services de qualité en éducation sur le territoire Cri.**

La commission scolaire reconnait l'importance de nos principales demandes, comme celle relative à l'aide à l'enfance en difficulté d'apprentissage et partage aussi notre avis que l'obtention d'une prime favoriserait le recrutement et le maintien de personnel qualifié.

Dans le but de garantir des services éducatifs de qualité, nous vous assurons que nous ferons tout ce qui sera nécessaire pour amener le gouvernement du Quebec offrir à vos enfants, des services à leur mesure et adaptés à leurs besoins. Nous croyons que ce qui est bon pour le Sud l'est aussi pour le Nord.

Marcel Duplessis
Président

Congratulations to The Nation

Congratulations to The Nation and its staff for their good work in presenting Cree points of view and knowledge to the world.
Congratulations to Alex Roslin on winning an award from the Canadian Association of Journalists in the category of Best Investigative Report in a Small Newspaper (circulation under 25,000) for his story "In Dams We Trust."

Quebec Community Newspaper Association

1999

Winner - Best In-House Ad
Winner - Best Community Newspaper Promotion
Winner - Best Feature Story
Sally Matthew
2nd Place - Best News Story
Alex Roslin
2nd Place - Best Arts and Entertainment Story
Neil Diamond / Katerina Cizek
3rd Place - Best Column
Xavier Kataquapit
3rd Place - Best Investigative or In-Depth Reporting
Alex Roslin
3rd Place - Best Photo Essay
Ernest Webb

1998

2nd Place - Best Photo Essay
Neil Diamond
3rd Place - Best Editorial (General)
Ernest Webb
Honourable Mention - Best Column
Marilyn Bearskin-Herodier
3rd Place - Best In-House Ad
3rd Place - Best Special Section

1997

Winner - Paul Dumont - Frenette Award
Awarded for best overall Journalistic performance for the year 1996
Alex Roslin
Winner - Best Investigative / In-Depth Reporting
Alex Roslin
Winner - Best News Story
Alex Roslin
Winner - Best General Editorial
William Nicholls

1996

Honourable Mention - Best Investigative / In Depth
William Nicholls
Honourable Mention - Best Investigative / In Depth
Alex Roslin
Honourable Mention - Best Arts & Entertainment Story
Deantha Edmunds

1995

Winner - Best Investigative Story
Dan Robbins
Winners - Best Photo Essay
Neil Diamond, Will Nicholls, Ernest Webb
Honourable Mention - Best Feature Story
William Nicholls

Other Awards

1999

Canadian Community Newspaper Association - **Blue Ribbon Award**
Finalist in the General Excellence Competition

1998

International Gallery of Superb Printing - **Gold Medal**
Nation/Beesum 1998 Calendar

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

ᐃᔨᔾᐧ ᑕᕽᒋᒪᓕ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Crie

Ice Fishing

I've got my clothes all ready, they're laying on the floor,
all heaped up in a pile. My long-johns, pants, thick socks,
one undershirt, two sweaters, scarf, hat, mittens, skidoo pants, more thick socks,
extra pants just in case I get wet, extra mittens too, feather parka, and sun glasses.

Tomorrow is going to be a lot of fun.
I go to bed early, but I toss and turn.
I can't fall asleep, imagining a fish tugging at the end of my line.
Mother says it will be a nice sunny day tomorrow.
I dream about sitting around the fire, drinking tea.

After a big breakfast, we all jump into our clothes.
Big brother starts the skidoo. We all jump into the sled.
We stop at Gogoom's house. Everybody is outside, ready and waiting.
Everybody is laughing and giggling, except for a little boy
who wants to come but has to stay home, he is sick.

Uncle leads the way with Gogoom in the sled behind him.
She smiles and waves at us. Auntie is busy watching
passing trees, looking for rabbits and ptarmigan.
Bumps on the trail bob us about.
Weeee...down a hill we go. Up a steep hill we help
the skidoo by jumping out and pushing on the sled.

Finally we reach the frozen creek.
Big brother breaks the thin layer of ice on the holes with an ax.
It is still early morning. The fish bite our hooks.
One after another we pull them up.
More people are coming with their families.
Soon everybody is smiling and laughing as they pull up the fish.

The sun gets warmer.
Snow on top of the ice begins to melt.
Little brother splashes in the puddles.
Mother brought many extra clothes for him.
The fish are hardly biting .
Time for tea and a snack.

Gogoom sits on a pile of spruce boughs
at her favorite spot on the ice. I get wood for the fire,
and lay spruce boughs on the snow around it.

The spruce boughs smell so fresh.
From the fire I can see
people on the ice, visiting with each other.
The ice creaks every now and then.
Children are splashing about.
A little girl is busy picking up
other people's garbage blowing about;
a pop can, chocolate wrapper, chip bag, cereal box,
and puts them in a plastic bag.

At the fire, fish are frying.
Mother cuts the bread, and spreads
cloud berry jam on peanut butter.
The sun is right overhead.
Big brother takes tea and bread
to Gogoom
just as she is pulling up
a big trout.
Bopping it on the head
so the trout lays quiet,
Gogoom sings a song of thanks,
slowly chews her bread,
resumes the up and down
ice fishing motion with her hand,
and scans the horizon over the bay.

No fish are biting.
People make holes with chisels.
Something to do to pass the time.
The chickadees and whiskeychans
fly from branch to branch.
The chickadees sing
while whiskychans scold us
from the trees all around.

Big brother is asleep.
Little sister climbs a tree.
Mother tells stories to me.
Time passes quickly,
so it seems.

It is nearly sunset.
Gogoom and Auntie
sit far apart, but,
at the same time
they each pull up
fish bigger than a frying pan.
Everybody runs
for their hooks.
The fish are hungry,
it's supper time.

I pull up twelve fish
then it is time to leave.
Wrapping my scarf
around my face,
and my parka's
done up good,
I can feel the dampness in the air
freeze as the sun spreads
an orange red haze
over the land to the west.

We jump into the sleds
and nestle ourselves comfortably
onto cushions of caribou hair.

The skidoos trek along over the trails
and the headlights light up the trees
ahead of us. Rabbits scamper for cover.
Weeee...down a hill we go. Up a steep hill we help
the skidoo by jumping out and pushing on the sled.

The sky is night with stars and northern lights
dancing all about lighting the snow all around.
Except for a few electric light bulbs,
kerosene lamps on tables light up
the windows in the village.
The snow has melted on the sandy roads
and sparks fly as the sled's metal runners
drag and scrap over
its already frozen surface.
We strain and sweat as we push the sleds
most of the way home through the village.

In bed, I recall many fish flopping on the ice.
I dream about people talking and visiting
as fish below them swim
towards dangling baited fish hooks dancing
with the up and down motion of the hand
holding a fishing line on the end of a stick.
All around on my bedroom floor
lies well used winter clothing.

Recovery from Grief

There was a time in my life that I missed. I feel that I need to share my story to be of help to those that are in need of support. I went through a long grieving process when I lost my father, November 9, 1987 and my mother, January 10, 1998. Only a feeling of emptiness stood in place of my parents' unconditional love for me. I believe that, overcoming these feelings of grief cycle will reward me with unconditional love and concern for those in their own grieving process.

It has been painful to lose a parent or parents. I hung on in loneliness, anger (for his leaving) and a feeling of emptiness for 8 years for my father before I started to move on in my grieving process. I am still grieving for my mother who died a couple of years ago. There is till much sadness and loneliness for her. Of course, I loved them dearly, but there is one thing that I fell sorry for, that is - not spending much time with each of the. A few years ago, I had a beautiful dream of my father being at his old house. I saw him smiling and happy. I was so happy in my dream to be with him. But, within seconds I awoke to reality. I woke up in tears when I realized he is no longer with us, but only in a dream! I cried and cried. Crying was a way to heal the pain that I had hidden for so long. Without realizing it, I had suppressed my feelings, by not talking about their deaths and not allowing myself to cry. Today, as I went through my treasured memories of them, I felt this incredible sense of the need to cry. I allowed myself to feel the emotion. This went on for 2 hours. I was feeling overwhelmed with sadness, loneliness for both of them. Then I thought of my mother who no longer feels the pain that she once did, while she was living here alone without my dad. For a moment, I felt happy that she no longer needed to be alone without my dad and no longer need to feel the pain of despair that I was feeling.

I called a couple friends to share my deepest thoughts on my grief. I cried as my friend and I shared similar stories on grief. I had to reach out to someone who has been through the same painful experiences. It helped to acknowledge my feelings by sharing them with supportive friends.

After I hung up, I stayed with the feeling(s). I did not want to block my feelings any more. For a while I had a sense of peace and tranquility. I chose to sit in silence with only the ticking of a clock and a drip from a faucet. As I sat and thought about my loved ones (mom and dad) and other relatives that passed on, again, I had mixed feelings about my sadness, loneliness and happiness. Although I knew it was unrealistic, I longed for their unconditional love and their touch once more. I wished I could turn back the clock, I'd do things differently. I would spend more time with each one. I'd spend more time in the bush, learning the traditional ways. I'd spend more time listening to their advice and listening to their old stories of long ago. I'd spend more time to love and not hate their restrictions of the way they disciplined me. They knew what is best for me. I'd spend more time in peaceful settings by a campfire and meditating to my heart's content.

I feel no shame or guilt in telling parts of my life story, just to reach one person who may have that desire to have a change of heart. The reason why I did not take precious time with them was that I was selfish and was lost on drugs and alcohol for 25 years, before I found my way. My so called 'friends' in the drug world came first in my life. I'd do anything for my friends. I went across Canada a few times, just to be with my friends. I rebelled every way I could while I abused drugs and alcohol. I thought I was not hurting anyone, as long as my parents didn't see me do drugs or alcohol. Little did I know, that I was only hurting myself and robbing myself from spending quality time with them. I never gave a thought that one day, my parent(s) would no longer be there for me. Now it is too late to do those things that my heart desires to do for them.

The reason for wanting to share this part of my life story is mainly for those whose parent or parents are still living. I would like to say that it would be rewarding in the end, to spend more time loving and respecting the wishes of your parent(s). Parents work hard to try and steer you in the right path. No matter what age we are, we need to respect them, although sometimes it seems impossible to please the. Parents try their best but we need to respect them for trying to give us the best advice or correction and not follow our own instincts.

The one gift you can give to a parent is respect and acceptance regardless of their own mistakes. (We all learn by our mistakes.) Parents are not perfect. They need love from their children. Another gift is to forgive your parent(s) for any pain you may have felt because of their mistakes. Forgive and love them. You will overcome those hurtful feelings if you could do your best to forgive and love instead of holding a grudge and rebelling against them. If you feel that your parent(s) always seem to lecture you, then think twice. Maybe, there is a good reason why.

It is natural to wish the best for a son or daughter. Parents have learned from their own mistakes in the past, therefore as a parent, they would not want their child to suffer and make the same mistake(s). There is a reason why parents may restrict you from bad influences, because they can sense when you are heading in the wrong direction. Just be glad you are given some correction, because one day they will be gone, you will wish you still could have that guiding had. If you ask God, our Creator to show you how to forgive and love, He will show you the way if you truly believe He can give you a changed heart. Today fine a time give your parents a hug or tell them you love them. Parents need to learn to do the same for their children on daily basis! If you find it hard to try and hug or show love, then practice, till it comes natural!

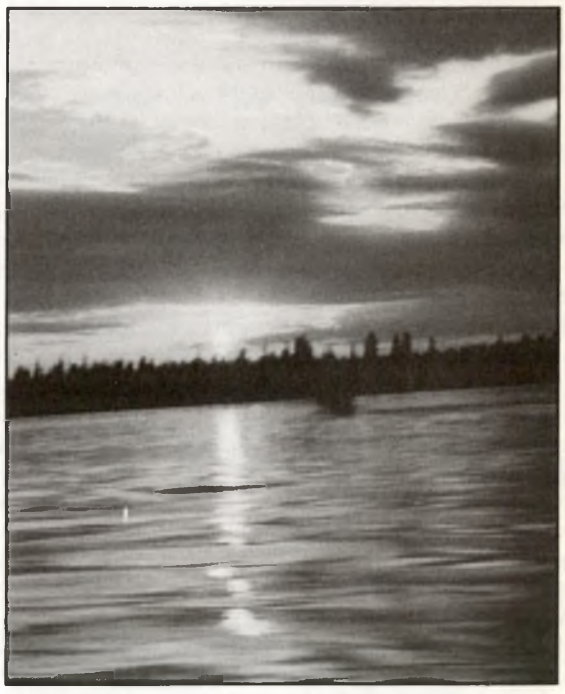
Ask yourself this question: What would it be like without my parent or parents or grandparents? Then live for today, as if it is your last on earth and do good to those around you. We need to stop thinking and behaving in a negative way. There are many things, we can do to show care, respect and love to those around us especially our parents and grandparents. Some people never get a word of encouragement or a hug in a day. I wish to challenge each person in the Cree Territories to encourage or hug one persona a day for the year 2000.

Wishing you the best on your healing journey.

Alice (Wapachee) Desjarlais

For Linda

By Xavier Kataquapit



Most of the time I feel like the luckiest guy in the world. I have a great family who are very supportive of the road I have chosen. I have wonderful friends who guide me and care a lot for me, and everyday is a gift. One of the most difficult things for someone like myself who was born and raised in a remote First Nation community is to adapt to an outside world that is very different, extremely competitive and much more complex. Thankfully, for the most part I have met some incredible people in my move to this outside world. They had made all the difference in my adaptation to an unfamiliar life.

Like many First Nation people, my first interaction with the outside world was when I left Attawapiskat to fly south to Timmins to attend school. I was excited but also terrified at being uprooted and sent off to a world that I had only known on television. My brother Mario and myself were very fortunate to have been accepted into a boarding home in Timmins that was like a home away from home. I have fond memories of this time as we were accepted into the home of Carmen and Linda Locke and their sons, Shawn and Keith. All of us teenagers from communities up the coast were boarded with families in Timmins and I am proud to say that we became part of this family for a while.

Much of the credit for our adaptation to this strange new world must be given to Linda Locke, who went out of her way to make life easier for two apprehensive, anxious and vulnerable Cree students from Attawapiskat. Linda made the effort every day to take the time to sit with myself and my brother just to give us the chance to communicate how we were feeling and to discuss any problems. She wasn't just providing a roof over our heads. She was caring for us the way any good caretaker would. Linda was wise and kind and I really believe she gave us a positive introduction to a world we were not prepared for.

Life moves on and over the years I have taken many different paths but I have also stopped along my way to think about those earlier days when Linda made things a whole lot easier for myself and my brother. Often, I thought about dropping in to see her but I always was in such a rush. Recently, I got word that she passed away and it hit me hard. At the same time I was able to have a visit with the family and I know that their lives will continue with her presence very near. I am so tired of losing people and it seems that this last year was especially hard. I am learning, though, that all the people I lost are only a memory and a prayer away, and that helps a lot.

Today, I am heading out for a hike with some friends and I know that when I get back, I will be surrounded with good people and in a safe and nurturing place. I will try my best to live these moments to the fullest. Tonight, as is my weekly custom, I will call mom and dad and I am looking forward to hearing their voices with a fresh appreciation for simply having them around. When I head to bed tonight, I will have one more wonderful person to say a prayer to. Meegwetch, Linda.

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Waapitihkw

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Once while paddling down the river, there was no wind at all but there was heavy fog. For some reason, he avoided going ashore. He went along with the current. It began to get dark. There was a point covered with willows to the south side of the shore. He landed his canoe at the willows, pulling it up the shore. This was where he planned to stay for the night. The willows were strong and thick ones. He turned his canoe over on the thick willows and crawled in under the canoe to bed for the night. But he didn't feel sleepy at all. After a while, he thought he heard someone coming through the bush. Then he realized that there was someone coming towards him. He stayed under the canoe and stayed quiet and listened. The person who had reached his canoe attempted to lift the canoe and flip it over. He held on to the canoe bar with the thick willow in his grasp also, anchoring himself and the canoe he was under. He could tell that this person was more determined to flip over the canoe again. Waapitihkw held on tightly and the canoe couldn't be flipped over. Since that person couldn't move the canoe, he just walked back into the bush to where he came from. Waapitihkw didn't encounter that person again. At the break of dawn with the sun shining brightly, he left again in his canoe, paddling off with the current towards the settlement of Whapmagoostui.

Waapitihkw landed his canoe every now and then only to camp for the night. He killed only enough food for himself for that day. He eventually reached the people camped at the portage called Maahch Kipitaakin (Last Portage). This is the last portage coming down the river towards the community. When he reached the last portage, there were many canoes all along the shore. He paddled ashore. There was an elder long ago called Nuutaahchikwaau (Hunts Otter). I haven't seen him in my lifetime. Nuutaahchikwaau's father was there. Waapitihkw was Nuutaahchikwaau's father's son-in-law. This was when Nuutaahchikwaau was a young man. Waapitihkw told his story of how his wife and his mother-in-law left him in a stealthy way. Nuutaahchikwaau's father invited Waapitihkw into his home because he was his son-in-law. This elder had highly regarded whale oil. He placed some in a container for Waapitihkw and Waapitihkw greased his face and his head. The elder also made pimihkaan for him. Waapitihkw ate. After eating, he laid down where the elder was laying down also. When Nuutaahchikwaau arrived, his father told him right away, "Your brother-in-law has been in a sorry state, his living companions had abandoned him. And he decided to come our way." When Nuutaahchikwaau told this story, he used to say, "There was my brother-in-law lying there, looking very greasy." This was because his face and hair were greased with whale oil.

The people began talking amongst each other. There were many people camped at the portage. They said to each other, "I wonder if he would agree if he did not go towards the settlement and stay among us instead. Since there are many of us, we'd take care of him ourselves. If he was given ammunition, maybe he'd agree to it." They talked to him. And everyone gave him some ammunition, including gunpowder and all the necessary things used for a gun. Everyone agreed to give him some of the ammunition they had acquired at the trading post. It was gathered into one place and there was a considerable amount given to him. They asked him not to go towards the settlement but stay with the people instead. Waapitihkw said, "Yes, I will agree to what you are asking me since you are helping me so much." The people talked amongst each other again saying, "I wonder what he'd do if we gave him a wife." They talked to Waapitihkw again asking if he would accept a wife. The next morning when the people paddled up the river to migrate into the bush, Waapitihkw paddled with his new wife. He got a wife at the portage. That was how the people lived with him. This is the story told about Waapitihkw. His child was born as soon as they landed their canoes. This was how Waapitihkw got a Whapmagoostui woman as a wife and the other one had gone to the coast towards the Chisasibi territory.

Wachiya!

The Mayor, the City Councillors and the members of the Val d'Or community would like to thank the Cree Nation for their participation.

We appreciate the business they gave to the Val d'Or community.

HAPPY GOOSE BREAK!

Cont'd from page 6

understand them, you might see the bigger picture. Our population is outpacing the number of jobs available, and when you combine this with the neglect faced by our trappers you might begin to understand something. By having our people starve for jobs, we make ourselves even more vulnerable, the governments can manipulate us even more. The MOU tie-ups is proof of this. Imagine if more people in our communities were working, we would be much more self-reliant and could even look to the day when we could tell outside governments to, pardon my language, go to hell.

As it is now, our trappers are being pressured by many in our communities to cede their lands so that hydro-electric projects can be built there in the hopes of getting a few jobs as labourers. The trappers, the reason for many of the rights we now have, are now being pressured from their own people. Scary, isn't it?

As a nation, we must establish a balance between a modern economy and a harvesting based way of life. If we do not, we will all suffer. If we do, we control the future of our land.

This in no way implies that I endorse all development on our lands. We must always make sure that the development takes into account our preoccupations and collective needs, especially of those who choose to live as hunters and trappers. However, the best way to ensure that our realities are properly considered is to sit on both sides of the table. If someone from your family is a trapper and another in industry worker, you are best suited to strike a balance between their needs and preoccupations. Do you understand? By trying to integrate certain industries, we can strive to eventually sit on both sides of the table (Cree government and industry representatives).

Troilus is much more than an agreement - it's a step towards assuming our rightful places in the future of Cree territory. I find it sand that you have never taken the time to salute companies or individuals who make in-roads towards Cree integration.

As for those who complain about Troilus, maybe when they will begin losing those jobs or end up working for some company that refuses to acknowledge their rights, maybe then will be look back and see that things were pretty good.

You know, the future of our land seems to be played down south, but the present is being lived in our communities. Find out more about it.

Andy Baribeau
Mistissini

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Aanischaaukamikw
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Aanischaaukamikw

Profiles - Number 3

It's in the classrooms, it's in your living room, it has the potential to be everywhere in Eeyou Istchee: the World Wide Web connects us to anything and anyone, anywhere in the world - at incredible speed.

Aanischaaukamikw will use the speed of today's technology to deliver two key types of programs:

Electronic access to Aanischaaukamikw will give us the ability to "see" what's going on in the collections, view documents in the Documentation and Research Centre, even peek at what's going on in the theatre, music studios, or TV studios.

Distance education will offer classes conducted by "remote control" where web viewers can learn about Cree Culture, language, traditional ways, and other study areas.

What does it all mean? With a computer and a phone line, anyone in Eeyou Istchee will have instantaneous access to everything inside Aanischaaukamikw.

With 13,000 Crees in nine communities covering the 3,500 square mile territories of Eeyou Istchee, access to language development, history, traditional knowledge, art, and music is no easy matter. Aanischaaukamikw's Electronic Access and Distance Education programs will bring these important parts of our culture as close as the desktop, delivering:

- A World Wide Web site which will act as a doorway to the Institute for the Crees, for Canadians, and for the world;
- Catalogues of images, sound recordings, films and videos;
- Courses on both accredited and interest levels;
- Cree writings, including new fiction and non-fiction works of Cree and other native writers.

What else is in store? On-site classrooms built to be Internet "studios"; "classrooms in the bush" where courses and lectures are sent to the web "live" from where the action is; and in the future, satellite broadcasting, "live" cultural events, and more.

For a brochure, a CD-ROM, or other information about Aanischaaukamikw, call *Nian Matoush (514) 861-5329,* or *Kenny Mianscum (418) 745-3911.*

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

I would like to congratulate to Cindy Coonishish and her b/f Jason on their first baby girl born on March ?,2000. Take good care of your little angel. from: B-D G.

Congratulations to Brian and Flossie Wynne on the birth of their Baby Boy on March 21, 2000. Having a baby is a beautiful blessing and every time we see them we are reminded that life is sweet and wonderful. We are very thankful that Braedan-Jay is very healthy and well. With lots of love, Sheshamush, Kawapit Family.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Franklin Moar is one happy little Chubbster who will be celebrating his second birthday on April 21st. This birthday will be a day to remember for me because I will be celebrating it with you this time. There is a lot that I would like to say but the only words I can think of right is that I LOVE YOU! I wish only the best for you and through your whole life time. From grandma in Hull. XXXOOO!

Happy 6th Birthday to my niece Desiree O. on April 20, 2000. I hope you have a great birthday in MTL and lots of presents.*s* Sending you lots of hugs and kisses for you and baby Tanner. See y'all in the summer. xoxoxoxo From auntie Mandy in Chisasibi.

Happy Birthday sister Melissa!!! In Ottawa! No I didn't forget, just slow theses days! But I'm sure you had a great day on the 6th. We'll make it a night at the Casino when you come o.k? Just bring Dad's Visa. See Ya! Love, Rachel E. Study lots, you'll go far in life!!

I would like to wish a happy 17th Birthday to my friend/cuz on April 1st, 2000. Her name is April Neeposh from Nemaska. Hey! Don't party too much, you might get cought again HA!HA!HA! Happy B-day girl and many more years to come, Nii Lobita

Happy 13th birthday to Paul, We just wanted to let you know that we love you very much. We also wanted to thank you for respecting and listening to us. Thanks for hanging in there with us during hard times like the time with grandma. You helped alot just by being there. Keep up the good work in school. You make us very proud, we wish you all the best. Once again Happy Birthday. Love Mom & Sis

We would like to say happy birthday to the following people Anita Swallow on April 3, Chelsea Grace on April 15, Sarah Daisy on April 23, Derek I on April 24, Dylan S. April 29. Leslie M. on May 10, Dorothy T. on May 11. Rebecca S Dakota M on May 13 and to Terrilyn Napash on May 18. Hope you all have a good day on your birthdays. From L D&K (The Tomatuks) Eastmain.

We would like to wish a very special girl in our hearts to Angelina Gunner (Mistissini) a happy 16th birthday on March 7. We love you and miss you!! From mom and dad # 2 in Ouje Bougoumou. Happy birthday also to Anita Trapper on March 7, Annette Trapper on March 11 and to our little friend Redfern Trapper on March 15 (Mistissini) From us at 92 Opataca, Ouje-Bougoumou.

We would like to wish a happy 7th birthday to our precious little girl Davina Agnes Cooper on April 10. We are so happy to have you in our lives. You have brought us so much happiness, laughter, joy and most of all love. We thank the Creator everyday for giving us such an adorable girl to raise, to love and care for. We love you so much. With all our love, mommy (Shirley, Sandy) and daddy (Philip Cooper)

5 years ago on January 4, 1995 at 2:53 p.m. a little princess came into this world weighing 8 lbs. and 3 oz. She is a blessing to have and to hold. Happy 5th birthday to my daughter Kaitlyn Hester. Time flies so fast, you're already 5 years old. Seems like yesterday when I first held you in my arms. I will never forget the day you were born. I will always be here for you through good and bad times. You are my sunshine and you will always be. I love you with every beat of my heart. Love always, your mommy Cheryl

Happy belated birthday to my nieces: Gretta Diamond on February 3, Valentina Brien on February 29 and Crystal Brien on February 29. I hope yours was memorable since it only comes once every four years. Also I would like to wish an early happy birthday to my other niece April Brien. Have a pleasant day on April 4. PS. Remember I love you all equally and if you ever need a friend I will always be there for you. With love and friendship, your aunt Jeannette.

We would like to send these birthday wishes to all of these guys. Starting February to June 2000. Jeannie Quiscappio on Feb. 9, Michael Nabinicaboo on Feb. 28, Steven Nabinicaboo on March 16, Cilcillia Quiscappio on April 21, Alex Nabinicaboo on April 26, John Quiscappio on May 11, Guy Nabinicaboo on June 9, Silas Nabinicaboo on June 18 and Susan Nabinicaboo on June 19 and also to our boys Christian Nabinicaboo on March 27, Roger on April 25, Allan on May 4, Noah on May 11. Hope you guys will have a nice day on your birthdays. We love you and to our adopted daughter Mary Quiscappio on June 4. We love you too. Happy birthdays to you all and many more to come. From Christina and Gilles (Kawawa)

We would like to send birthday greetings to the most important people in our loves, our mom and dad. Our dad will be celebrating his birthday on April 29 and our mom will be celebrating her birthday on June 25. We just want to let you guys know how much we love you. And thank you for being there for us when we need you the most. We hope you will have a nice day on your birthdays. Happy birthday to you both and many more to come. From your kids Noah, Roger, Christian, Allan and Mary and from your grandson Stanley.

Birthday wish to a guy I love. He will be celebrating his birthday on April 29. I just want to let you know how much I love you. Thank you for being there for me when I need you the most. For the good and bad times. I hope you will have a great time on your day. Happy birthday to you and many more. I love you and always will. From the one whom you love and loves you.

We would like to send birthday greetings to a very special young lady. Her name is Nancy Blacksmith. She'll be celebrating her day on March 31. Nancy, we want to take this time to wish you love, joy, peace and happiness. Take care and celebrate your day wisely. With love Charlotte and Abel.

I would like to wish my nephew, Ken Sutherland, a happy 2? Birthday on March 12. (Moose Factory). You grew up to be a handsome young man, I think it's time to settle down, don't you think? Remember you are in my heart and in my thoughts. I hope you have a nice birthday!! Love always, your aunt Judy in Ouje-Bougoumou.

I would like to wish my adorable niece, Cherish Wesley, a happy 1st birthday on March 19 (Moosonee). I hope your daddy takes pictures of you on this special day. Someday I will see you and meet you so I can smother you with kisses. Send me a picture. Love always, auntie Judy in OJ.

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CLASSIFIEDS

nephew, Ryan Weapenicappo, a happy 8th birthday on March 20 (Moose Factory). I hope you have a nice day!! Love always, your auntie Judy in OJ.

One year ago on April 2, 1999 in Chibougamau Hospital, I gave birth to a sweet little boy named Jason Abraham Rabbitskin Tanoush. We would like to wish him a happy 1st birthday. Since the day you were born you have given us so much joy and happiness n our lives. I can't believe how fast you have grown. It seems like only yesterday that you were born. Once again happy birthday son. With love always, mom and dad Nicole and Joshua (Nemaska)

I would like to wish my adorable nieces from my other family tree in Waskaganish to the following. Happy 1st birthday to Alexia Esau on March 5, Happy ? birthday to Melanie Esau on March 8, happy ? birthday to Clarissa Esau on March 9. Have a nice day and I love you all!!! From me, your auntie Judy in OJ.

Happy birthday to a beautiful girl who will be celebrating her day on March 30. This beautiful little girl's name is Sigoun Wapachee. We love you very much and we wish you all the happiness. Make sure you make a wish when you blow out your candles. Love you with all my heart. Your aunt Charlotte and cousin Abel.

A birthday message to our big brother in Waskaganish. His name is Steve Moar. His birthday is on February 28 and he will be celebrating his 11th birthday. We want to tell you we miss you very much. We can't wait for you to finish school. We want to wish you a very happy birthday and to enjoy yourself, although we can't celebrate with you. We will be thinking of you on this special day. Please try to finish school so mom and dad will be proud of you. Keep being the top student in class and we are very proud of you too. Make us proud so we can have a brother. Make us proud so we can a have a brother we can look up to. With all our love, lots of hugs and kisses coming your way. Love, your sister and brother Candace and Steve.

Happy belated birthday to my friends, Melysssa Lameboy on January 9, 1999 and Jennifer Labbe on February 20, 1999. Happy birthday and many more to come. Friend always, Lucy Snowboy.

From Whapmagoostui to Chisasibi. Happy birthday to Rory Louttit on March 23. From Mom and Dad, and to our granddaughter Angel Louttit. Happy birthday on April 7. Love, granny and grandpa. Xoxo.

Happy 3rd birthday to Tyler John Blueboy Blackned on March 3rd. Don't eat too much cake. We will always love you in every special way. With love, mom and dad. (Jeannette and Philip Blackned)

I would like to wish my brother a happy 3rd birthday. To Tyler John B. Blackned. I love you with all my heart. With love, Ronald Jules B. in Wask.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

April 20, 2000 is the anniversary of my parents, David and Catherine Sam. Wishing you a Happy 24th anniversary. I love y'all with all my heart. Je vous aime beaucoup. From your daughter, Amanda.

We would like to wish a happy wedding anniversary to Ruby Pierre Coon Come in Mistissini. May you two be filled with happiness. We mis you and love you always. Mr and Mrs George Guanish (Kawawachikamach)

200-FOR SALE

Tent for sale. 40 X 60 feet. Aluminum steel frame, no centre pole along with coverings (white tarps). Used only two summers, still in good condition. Price: $23,800.00. First come and first served. For more information don't hesitate to call. Cree Nation of Eastmain C/O Ricky Gilpin or Roger Weapenicappo at 819-977-2262 or 2263. Message: 819-977-0211.

300-PERSONALS

Looking for Nation Essay Contest Prize winner Don Davey Please contact us at 514.272.3077.

To Stevens Sister in Waskaganish Just a few lines to say Hi and how is everything so far. I quess you've all know that I am attending college this year with my master. At least I get to carry a college diploma. Take care my buddies from Rockland Broccoli Cooper.

I would like to wish all my family member a Happy Easter. Listing them all would take the whole classified section but you know who you are. I would just like to mention my husband Archie and my daughters, April, June and Angie, also my one and only son, Archie Jr.. Happy Easter and I love you and thanks for being patient with me while I was studying. From Janie

Happy Easter to Chubbster (Franklin Bert Jordan Moar) in Chisasibi. Don't eat too much chocolate or you will be an even bigger Chubbster. Love from grandma, Janie

I would like to take this time to say happy Easter to my friends. their names are Mary, Betsie, Cheryl and Snow. I hope that the Easter Bunny brings lots of chocolate for you girls. From someone you know very well in Chisasibi.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to someone who helpped a lot while I was studying for the past two years. This person is Lorraine Kanatewat. If you only knew how much I appreciate what you have done for me. Helping with the girls on their schoolwork and with the boys on their hockey games. I know getting them up for school was never easy but, you always did your best. Lorraine, please accept this thank you note which will never be enough for me. Again, thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. From Janie

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

Aboriginal Youth Council of Montreal are seeking donations. We provide activities and workshops for Aboriginal youth. We are a non profit group and if you want more information call 514.499.1854 or email us at council@nfcm.org. Mary Niquanicappo, Program Committee, Montreal

To John from Waswanipi. Stop wasting your time on that loser CS. Why would she put a classified in the paper and you're living with your girlfriend. What a S.

To Pauline Napash. I miss you but I know where you are. I need you but you're still too far. My heart is in your hands and yours in mine. Until then I'll be missing and wanting you. Sincerely, Eric.

Louise Wapachee (OujeBougoumou). I think of you everyday and wish you well. I hope that the trepidations of life will not bring you down. I look into your eyes and see the strength of a person who loves and cares for many. For many who have come to symbolize the state of women in our nation, you have become the reason why women should not bow down to petty insecurities of those who do not want to see the strength of women. Stay strong and loyal to your beliefs, you will achieve your true destiny. With love, your guardian Angel.

To my loving daughter Faith Wapachee who is attending Canadore College in North Bay and is celebrating on February 15, 2000. Happy 21st birthday! You are special! No one could ever take your place. You were a special joy at birth and throughout you 21 years, even through a few tough times in your teen age years. I love you and miss you. Now you are a young adult and I see so much potential in you. You surprise me at times. I find you unique, witty caring, pretty and full of life. Have a good celebration! Take care. And see you soon. With love from your mom in Chisasibi.

Hi to my friend in Mist, Veronica Longchap. How are you? Me, I'm doing just great! Hope to hear from you soon. From friend Jessica in Waswanipi. Take care!

Just wanted to say hello to a buddy

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in Montreal, Chantal at queens of angels, write to me, you know my address. I may not make it after all, I will though, sometime. Write to me, ok? later, nellie

I would like to tell the whole nine communities that there is one guy that I really have a crush on for several years and that is someone that I have known for a long time and I will will always care for him and love him. The persons name is Jonathan Cheezo(Eastmain) All I wanted to say was that I am very lucky to have you! I love you dearly! Love Always Andrea xox

I would like to say "I love you" to Jonathan Nine O'clock in Chisasibi. I'll always love you Jonathan, even if I'm not there with you. But in my heart that's where I know we're going to stay 4 ever and always. If we see each other again. I miss your kisses and your hugs. I don't know how to live without your love. I was born to make you happy. When I saw you I was afraid to meet you. When I met you, I was afraid to know you, when I knew you I was afraid to like you, when I liked you, I was afraid to love you. Now that I love you I am more afraid to lose you. You came into my life since we stayed together for the first time. You are my really first love. I hope I will see you soon. (PARY) Last but not least I love you very much. ($-ever) Yours truly and always will be, Wanda Agnes Einish #21. Lots of love (Mistissini)

This goes out to some one he knows who he is: Darcy Saganash! (Nemaska) If I could only turn back time. We could still be one, deep down I still care and hope that someday what we did and shared will once again come true. I hope and pray that someday God will answer this prayer. Age doesn't matter. It's what's inside that counts. Hope you understand what I'm trying to write. Oh by the way, if you have time can you please write to me? My address: Pacific Press, 55 Waposite St., Ouje-Bougoumou, Que., G0W 3C0 and hoping to hear from you soon. Thinking of you until next time my future boy. xoxoxo.

This goes out to my two wonderful brothers John D. Bosum in Val d'Or and Titus Bosum in Chisasibi. First of all I would like to thank God of you guys being my 2 best brothers because without him I woulded be having you guys right? Thank you for always being there for me through good and bad times and I am very happy of you guys being in my life. I love you both so much! and take good care of those girlfriends. With lots of love, your big sister wannabe Lena Bosum. (Ouje) Hey John Call me sometime eh? Love ya!

Hi to three gorgeous guys in Mistissini. Their names are Sheldon, Jason and Byron. How have you been. We hope you've been kicking a** in hockey. Don't go chasing girls around (joke). Hey Mistissini girls watch out from these guys they're wild (joke) We'll see you soon in Chisasibi but for now good luck on your games. PS Don't party too much without us. From two girls in Hull.

Hi to Sheena Napash in Chisasibi,. What have you been doing so far? We heard you were going out with? We wish you were here. We guess you were too tired to party with us again. One of us says, "I guess Sebastien is all mine." By the way Vanessa says hi to you and why don't you write to us. From your two crazy buds! PS Don't party hardy without us (joke).

Hi to my NERDY brothers Tim and Jeremy in Hull, how are you guys? I hope your not slacking of, get up and go to school! :) Anyway I miss you funny guys. I'll come down sometime. nellie

I'm French, 30 years old, artist painter interested in different Indian civilizations and their history. My wish is to communicate with one or two people. Cassandra Leupard 20, Rue de Dijon 70100 Arc les Gray, France

In search for a single female correspondant (Pen Pal) between the age of 22-30 of any Nation. I'm 29, 5' 10", Algonquin, single and in shape. Looking forward to hearing from you. Philip Haymond, 851, 3e Ouest, Amos Quebec, J9T 2T4.

700-PENPALS

Hi! We are looking for penpals of any age, male or female. We enjoy receiving and writing letters of the Cree Nation. We promise to rely ASAP. Please write to: Penpal, 244 Riverside Drive, Apt. # 202, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 1H3

Anyone looking for penpals. Well here is your chance. E-mail me at:Lakiwa69@hotmail.com I'm from one of the 9 cree communities. I'm 17 years old/female. I'll be interested to hear anyone.It does'nt matter female or male. (any age). So i'll be looking forward to hear someone.

Looking for e-pals between the ages of 17-20 of the cree nation male or female, it doesn't matter. I'm 17 soon to be 18. I like to meet new people. and looking forward to hearing from you lovely people! If you want to get to know me better! just write to me at friendly_2000_82@yahoo.com I'll be waiting!

Seeking email pals between the ages of 17-23. male/female. Anyone would like to reply to me please email me at Glacier@hotmail.com. Hoping to hear from you soom. Peace.

To all the people that enjoy receiving or sending e-mails. We are two native guys looking for e-mail penpals between the ages of 17 to 25. We promise to respond if we receive letters. Our goal is to make friends with you people who enjoy making friends through e-mails. Our e-mail addresses are Hab Boss @excitemail.com and T Bosum@excitemail.com. Hope you write to us. Later.

Hi! To the youth of Cree Nation.I am looking for some penpals at any age females or males.I'd love to have penpals and to be friends with anyone around the james Bay area. E-mail me at: friendshipcampus@Hotmail.com. I promise to reply A.S.A.P ! I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends.

It's Silly Girl here, I would like to recieve some Hot-mail from anyone and anywhere! I will be looking forward to your email so write to me, thanks! Write: Silly_angel69@hotmail.com!

Hey Cree Nation, I am 18M, seeking email pen pals, so If your the kinda gal that likes to make friends through internet, well here's a chance. My email ad is: Myers_91@excite.com. The only hint that I can give you is that I am from around Waswanipi, Ojay and Mistissini. So if anyone beetween the age of 16-19 can email me, I promise to reply as soon as I can. from.....Later

Hey, listen up people. My name is " Ninety Nine ", and I need some e-mail pen pals to write to ! Age, male, or female, it doesn't matter who you are. As long as I receive a e-mail from someone ! My address is nine_teen_ninety_nine@hotmail.com . I hope that someone well write 2 mesomeday. So anyway, I should be looking forward of getting a e-mail from anyone, Bye ! Sincerely, Ninety Nine.

Hi! We are looking for some penpals we wanna hear from at any age and sex that would like to get to know us. We are a group of girls from Nemaska. We enjoy meeting new people and getting to know all the people aaround the James bay area and any where else especially making friends? Our initials are:ET,KD,TD,AT,CC,CW and CB. Hope to hear from you very soon. PEACE TO THE YOUTH.E-MAIL:ccckteabutterflies @Hotmail.com or gogobshished @Hotmail.com

Looking for e-mail pen-pals around the cree nation. Anyone interested in writing to me? I am a cree girl between the ages 14-17. And i like to meet new people, especially by e-mail. If you want to get to know me better. Just write to me, my e-mail adress is: g.cree@gurlmail.com

Looking for email friends. Email me at maryniq@hotmail.com and I am a Cree/Inuit in Montreal. Hi Beth Sealhunter and hope you are okay. Hello! Miss Rachel KS.

SCF seeking email penpals between the ages of 17-22 of any community. I'm 18, 5'7" and I love to make new friends. Looking forward to hearing from you! Dreamwhisper_excitemail.com. I'll be waiting.

Hello ladies! M/21/single.Looking for a wife , Send pic, resume and applications to ndnsuperman_2000 @yahoo.com (just kidding) I Would love to become email friends with gals (18-25yrs) reply soon,ndnsuperman.

Seeking email pen pals. Males or females, doesn't matter. I am a female. Just write to me at my email adress Guess_me55@hotmail.com. Just tell me about yourself and I'll tell you about myself when I write back. I promised to respond soon! Hope you write to me!

Hi, I'm tired of getting nothing in my email. So I was hoping someone could maybe write to me. Who knows, maybe we'll meet someday if you're around the James Bay area after so many emails, cool eh? Anyway I hope to recieve email next time I check (which is pretty often). And I will respond, k? So here's my address, Nii_eeyou@hotmail.com

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